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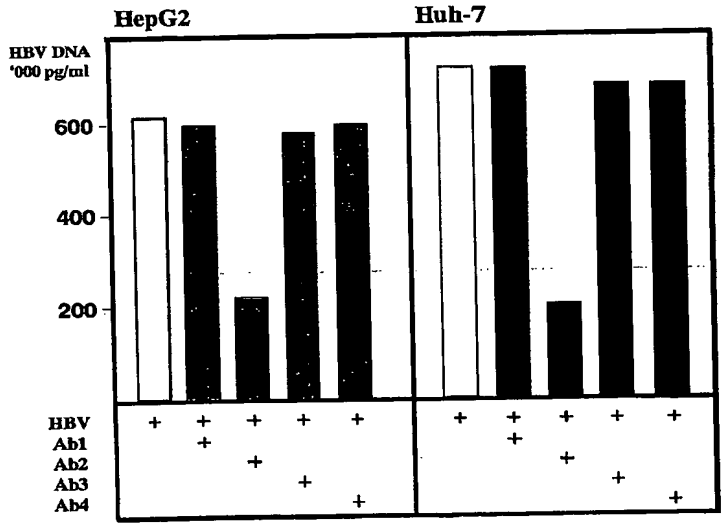
(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOUNDS FOR ALTERING THE LOAD OF HEPATITIS VIRUS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for altering the load of a Hepatitis virus present in an infected host organism. The method involves modulation of the complex formation of a heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein K (hnRNP K) and the regulatory region of a Hepatitis virus, enhancer II region. Additionally there are methods of identifying compounds that modulate complex formation, and the use of such compoundsin diagnosis of a Hepatitis infrection. The present invention also relates to a mutation in enhancer II region at position 1752 of the virus sequence which reduces the binding affinity of hnRNP K with the enhancer II region.

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